

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6563

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 0485

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. WE ARE EXPECTING TO HAVE NEXT BUSINESS FACILITATION SESSION WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE MANZHULO IN WEEK OF JANUARY 16-20. IF CASE AT HAND HAS REACHED UNFAVORABLE CONCLUSION BY THAT TIME, IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR US NOT TO MENTION OUR DISPLEASURE AT THE START OF THE MEETING WITH MANZHULO. WE HAVE IN MIND AN ORAL STATEMENT WHICH SKOUG WOULD READ BUT NOT TRY TO GIVE TO MANZHULO, SINCE HE MIGHT WELL REFUSE TO RECEIVE IT. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF STATEMENT COULD ALSO REFLECT THE STRONG DISPLEASURE OF ALL USG AGENCIES CONCERNED, INCLUDING COMMERCE AND TREASURY, SO THAT MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE WOULD CLEARLY GET THE POINT THAT ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES CARRIED ON UNDER COMMERCIAL COVER BY SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES WILL HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON SOVIET TRADE PROSPECTS. WE WILL BE DRAFTING AN ORAL STATEMENT FOR THIS CONTINGENCY.

2. FOR DALE HERSPRING FROM BILL BROWN: RE YOUR ETA (SORRY FOR THE DELAYED RESPONSE), WE THINK THE STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA, BUT WOULD SUGGEST THAT YOU NOT DELAY YOUR ARRIVAL HERE BECAUSE OF THE CONFERENCE. RATHER COME AND GET YOUR
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FEET WET IN MOSCOW BEFORE GOING OFF TO STOCKHOLM. YOUR INITIAL CONTACTS IN MOSCOW AND THE DIFFERENCE PERSPECTIVE ONE GETS HERE SHOULD BE A BENEFIT TO YOU IN STOCKHOLM.

3. REGARDING MAILING PRIVILEGES FOR NON-OFFICIAL AMERICANS IN THE USSR, WE ARE WILLING TO DISCUSS THE NEW MAILING REGULATIONS WITH THE IREX REPRESENTATIVES WHO WILL BE HERE LATER THIS

MONTH (MOSCOW 0124). IT MIGHT BE WELL TO NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH A DISCUSSION DOES NOT IMPLY THAT THE DECISION WILL BE RECONSIDERED, AND THAT IT WOULD BE UNWISE FOR IREX OFFICIALS TO PROMISE ANYTHING TO EXCHANGEES CURRENTLY IN THE SOVIET UNION OR LIKELY TO COME IN THE FUTURE. YOU ARE WELL AWARE OF THE BACKGROUND OF OUR DECISION AND THE OCCASIONAL ABUSE OF THE PRIVILEGE IN THE PAST WHICH LED TO IT.

4. THE CURRENT EXCHANGEES ARE IN SOME WAYS A TRANSITIONAL GENERATION. SOME WERE NOT NOTIFIED OF THE MORE MODEST AECA PRIVILEGES THEY WERE TO BE ACCORDED UNTIL AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL IN THE SOVIET UNION. IN ADDITION, THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE FIRE CAUSED THE WITHDRAWAL OF CERTAIN SERVICES AND PRIVILEGES THEY HAD BEEN LED TO EXPECT. TO SOME THE NEW MAIL REGULATIONS SEEMED A BLOW MORE SERIOUS THAN IT IS BECAUSE IT FOLLOWED UPON THE OTHER TWO EVENTS. INITIAL REACTION WAS VERY NEGATIVE. SOME OF THE CORRESPONDENTS, MORE MATURE AND POSSESSED OF GREATER EXPERIENCE IN THESE MATTERS, WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN CALMING THE IREXERS, AND THAT CALM HAS PREVAILED. SINCE THE SCHOLARS OF 78-79 WILL BE AWARE BEFORE THEY COME OF THE SITUATION IN ALL AREAS, FUTURE UNHAPPINESS IS LIKELY TO BE MINIMAL.

5. ALSO NOTEWORTHY IS THE POINT THAT CIES, NAS, AND IREX ARE UNDER NO GREATER OBLIGATION THAN THE EMBASSY TO PROVIDE SERVICES WHICH THEY FEEL ARE BEYOND THEIR RESOURCES. EACH ORGANIZATION IS PERFECTLY FREE TO IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS AND ESTABLISH CONFIDENTIAL

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PROCEDURES ACCORDING TO ITS DESIRES. WHAT THE EMBASSY INSISTS UPON IS THAT THE RETURN ADDRESS OF THE SPONSORING ORGANIZATION SERVE AS PRIMA FACIE RPT PRIMA FACIE TESTIMONY THAT THE CONTENTS OF THE PACKAGES ARE OF PRINTED RESEARCH MATERIALS APPROPRIATE FOR THE SCHOLAR'S USE AND APPROPRIATE FOR IMPORTATION INTO THE USSR. FINALLY, ON A LOGISTICAL LEVEL, THE PROBLEM WILL BE SEASONAL FOR CIES AND IREX; MOST PACKAGES WILL BE SENT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE ACADEMIC SEMESTER.

6. THERE IS ALSO AN ELEMENT WHICH THE CORRESPONDENTS CLEARLY UNDERSTAND AND WHICH WE FEAR THE EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGEES DO NOT. SHOULD DISCUSSION OF THESE POUCH PRIVILEGES BECOME "PUBLIC", IT WOULD BECOME CLEAR TO ALL, INCLUDING THE SOVIETS, THAT WE HAVE BEEN VIOLATING THE VIENNA CONVENTION BY MAKING THE POUCH AVAILABLE TO NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL. THE SOVIETS OF COURSE ALREADY KNOW THIS BUT HAVE NOT BOTHERED US SO LONG AS THE MATTER IS KEPT PRIVATE. IT IS IN EVERYONE'S INTEREST TO KEEP THIS MATTER IN INFORMAL CHANNELS OR WE MAY BE PUT IN A POSITION WHICH WOULD LEAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO TERMINATE ALL REPEAT ALL MAIL PRIVILEGES NOT ONLY FOR EXCHANGEES BUT ALSO FOR CORRESPONDENTS AND BUSINESSMEN.

7. IN SUM, OUR FIRM POSITION IS EITHER NO PACKAGES AT ALL
EITHER WAY, OR THE ARRANGEMENT WE HAVE SUGGESTED.

8. WHILE WE NEVER GOT A REPORT ON WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID TO
PATOLICHEV IN NOVEMBER, MFT SECTION CHIEF SAKHUN'S COMMENTS TO
CONGRESSMEN SMITH AND ANDREWS COINCIDE WITH WHAT ZINOV'YEV
TOLD SKOUG IN LATE NOVEMBER. PATOLICHEV GOT THE IMPRESSION FROM
THE MEETING THAT TRADE IS AN AREA WHERE CONGRESSIONAL WILL IS
PARAMOUNT. ALTHOUGH SAKHUN DID NOT CITE PATOLICHEV AS THE
SOURCE OF THIS COMMENT, HE DID MENTION THAT THE PRESIDENT SAID

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MOSCOW 0485

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

IT O BE A "REPRESENTATIVE" IN WASHINGTON. MFT OFFICIALS,
BY THE WAY, MENTIONED TO US THE PARADOX OF TWO AMERICAN
CONGRESSMEN (SMITH AND ANDREWS) SUGGESTING LEGISLATION
TO AUTHORIZE BARTER TRADE (GRAIN FOR OIL OR OTHER COMMOD-
ITIES) AS A MEANS OF GETTING AROUND US' OWN LEGISLATIVE RE-
STRICTIONS ON NORMAL TRADE WITH USSR. THE SOVIETS SPURNED
THE OFFER BUT MUST HAVE BEEN BEWILDERED ALL THE SAME.

9. LAST WEEK DURING THE CALL BY CONGRESSMEN SMITH AND ANDREWS,
DEUPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE RUNOV TURNED TO MINISTER
MESYATS AND REMARKED POINTEDLY: "YOU SHOULD VISIT THE UNITED
STATES." THIS STIMULATED AN INVITATION IN VERY GENERAL TERMS
FROM ANDREWS TO MESYATS THAT IF HE CAME, HE SHOULD VISIT
ANDREWS' FARM IN NORTH DAKOTA. ON THE SAME EVENING MFA AMERICAN
SECTION DEPUTY DIRECTOR FEDOSEYEV TOLD SKOUG THAT MESYATS
WOULD VISIT THE US THIS YEAR. ASKED FOR A DATE, FEDOSEYEV AT
FIRST MENTIONED THE SPRING BUT MAY HAVE CONFUSED THIS WITH DATE
OF BERGLAND VISIT HERE. WE WILL TRY TO FIND OUT IF MESYATS HAS

ANY PLANS FOR A VISIT, OR IF FEDOSEYEV WAS IN ERROR.

10. IN PLANNING ASSIGNMENTS FOR FIRST-TOUR SOVIET SPECIALISTS, YOU SHOULD TAKE CAREFUL NOTE OF 77 STATE 304943 (PER CHANNEL). OBLIGATORY ROTATIONAL SYSTEM (INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE ASSIGN-
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MENT IN CONE OF JUNIOR OFFICER) AND LIMITATION ON LENGTH OF TOUR WILL SEVERELY LIMIT EMBASSY'S FLEXIBILITY IN USING FIRST-TOUR OFFICERS. UNLESS EXTRA SLOTS ARE PROVIDED TO TAKE CARE OF ROTATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS (ESPECIALLY IN SECTION LIKE POL WHERE EXPERIENCE IS ESSENTIAL), NEW POLICY IS LIKELY TO BE HEAVY BLOW TO OUR EFFORTS TO GET BUDDING SPECIALISTS TO EMBASSY FOR FIRST TOUR. WE WILL BE COMMENTING FORMALLY IN A FEW DAYS, BUT BELIEVE YOU WILL ALSO WISH TO PONDER THE IMPLICATIONS.

11. REGARDING PENDING CASE, NO PEEP YET FROM MFA. ASSUME DOBRYNIN WILL BE APPROACHED EARLY THURSDAY MORNING. (LUERS CALLED ON USA DIVISION TODAY AND QUESTION DID NOT RPT NOT ARISE.)

12. PARAS 3-7 ABOVE WRITTEN BEFORE RECEIPT STATE 6965. WILL ADDRESS SPECIFIC QUESTIONS THERE TOMORROW. WHAT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND IS THAT OUR POUCH PRIVILEGES FOR OUTSIDERS HAVE NEVER RPT NEVER ALLOWED TRANSMISSION OF SAMIZDAT. IF THERE IS CON-
TERNATION, THEN THIS IS A CLEAR INDICATION THAT OUR PREVIOUS PROCEDURES WERE SYSTEMATICALLY VIOLATED DESPITE ALL OUR WARNINGS AND TIME-CONSUMING EFFORTS TO MONITOR.
MATLOCK

NOTE BY OC/T: SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 0485 BEING SERVICED.
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